United Nations S/2006/210

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 April 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 3 April 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 1 to 31 January 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. The present report covers the period from 1 to 31 January 2006.

2. As of 30 January 2006, the total number of troops in theatre was 16,946, which includes 2,744 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There was no change in the status of partner non-NATO country contributions.

Security

4. The most important event of January 2006 was the death of President Ibrahim Rugova. A vote at the Kosovo Assembly for the election of a new President was to follow the official mourning period, in early February 2006.[1] The immediate impact of Mr. Rugova's death on future status negotiations was the postponement of the beginning of the status talks to the end of February 2006. The overall situation in Kosovo will remain fragile due to the ongoing status talks, the high unemployment rate and the inability of the Kosovo electric company (KEK) to provide sufficient electricity to the region. The onset of winter has reduced the overall number of gatherings and demonstrations, although the Kosovo Action Network and the Movement for Self-Determination have begun to increase their visibility over the past month.

5. The overall inter-ethnic situation in Kosovo remains fragile due to continuous alleged inter-ethnic incidents.

6. No incidents against KFOR were recorded.

7. A total of 238 (175 in December) incidents related to unexploded ordnance, illegal weapons possession, weapons and ammunition findings, drugs, human trafficking and counterfeit currency were reported during the past month. Weapons seizures made up the vast majority of incidents during the month. There were increases in incidents concerning drugs (15, instead of 8), illegal weapons possession (102, instead of 86) and unexploded ordnance (57, instead of 27).

8. The Kosovo Force (KFOR) continues operations to prevent ethnic violence, protect patrimonial sites and remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The Force continues to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities in order to be better prepared to counter any resurgence in violence.

Compliance by the Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

9. During January 2006, one case of non-compliance was opened; two cases of non-compliance were implemented and there were ten working cases.

[1] The Kosovo presidential election was held at an extraordinary session of the Kosovo Assembly on 10 February 2006. The Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) candidate, Fatmir Sejdiu, was elected as the President of the new Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. The current number of active members of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) is 3,038. There are 184 (6.05 per cent) active ethnic minority members. The percentage of minorities within KPC still remains short of the goal (10 per cent) of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. There are only nine open slots left in the active personnel establishment list.

11. During January 2006, KFOR Inspectorate for KPC cells of the multinational brigades and the joint inspection teams of the headquarters of the KFOR Inspectorate for KPC carried out 51 roll calls, indicating a slightly decreasing number of personnel reported absent without permission (1.76 per cent), compared with the previous month (1.86 per cent), and 16.47 per cent of KPC personnel on leave.

12. Owing to several Islamic holidays, the funeral ceremony and the 15-day period of mourning, most of the regular training could not be conducted.

Conclusion

13. The overall situation in Kosovo will remain fragile owing to recent events and the beginning of the status talks. It is expected that the death of Mr. Rugova won't influence the status talks even though they were postponed to the end of February 2006. During January 2006, we observed an increase in political propaganda concerning the final status. The threat against the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and other international community facilities remains Medium, and the threat level for KFOR is Low.